



Family News

A Servant Community: Actively Faithful, Faithfully Active
St. John's Baptist Church · 300 Hawthorne Lane · Charlotte, North Carolina

Vol. 76, No. 30 - July 31, 2018



*St. John's
at Worship*

Sermon Series:

*Stories That Help Us Grow -
"For the Bible Tells Us So"*

Sunday, August 5

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Proclaimer:

Steve Hoffman

Sermon:

Knowing Jesus in a New Way

Scripture:

Luke 24:13-35

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Building Sabbath

Our annual "building sabbath" is scheduled for the weeks of July 30-August 5 (second & third floors) and August 6-10 (first floor/outside). In addition to some deep cleaning while the children are not in the building, there is painting happening in the HeadStart and Weekday School classrooms.

This is a time when most weekday and evening meetings at the church are cancelled or rescheduled so that needed maintenance can be done. Some entrances may be closed for a few hours or more. If you come to the church during those weeks, you may be directed to use an alternate entrance into the church. Thank you for being flexible during this time!



2018 Global Mission Offering The Nyarweng Primary School, South Sudan Goal - \$15,000—Received \$12,234

During this year's offering, we are hoping to raise \$15,000 (send checks to St. John's and write "The Nyarweng School" on the memo line) by the end of August. We also want to send a backpack to Nyarweng full of good will in the form of letters and art. Members of all ages are asked to address the letters to a young or older child or to a teacher or parent and place in the bag at the front of the sanctuary.



On two occasions, SJ members have visited the school, but it is not an easy trip as the transportation to this remote location in Ruweng State, South Sudan, can be unpredictable. Further, while there is no fighting in the area, the country of South Sudan is suffering from civil unrest that makes travel there unwise at this time. However, we maintain a direct connection to the school through Lubo who is the Country Director for the project, Raising South Sudan, which Mothering Across Continents manages from Charlotte. Lubo regularly visits his home village of



Nyarweng and brings us uplifting stories along with the harsh news that necessarily accompanies life in one of the world's most challenging places.

Please participate in our Global Mission Offering by giving and by writing a letter to a student, a teacher, or a parent. What do you want to share with your friends in Nyarweng? A part of yourself? An encouraging word? Your favorite bible verse? A picture of your family?



This summer I had the great pleasure of spending a week with some of the greatest theological minds in the world. The Yale Institute of Sacred Music had gathered these various brilliant lecturers for their liturgy conference *Full of Your*

Glory: Liturgy, Cosmos, Creation. I was thrilled, on many levels, about attending this conference; these conferences happen only once every three years, and this year former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rev. Rowan Williams, was the keynote speaker.

The official conference description stated:

The conference will explore ideas of creation and cosmos embedded in the worship life of the church at a time of unprecedented attention to ecological and cosmological concerns. Conference speakers will highlight some of the rich traditions of the past (ritual, visual, and musical, among others) and also address contemporary concerns. The broader aim of the conference is to offer the resources of the liturgical tradition—and its particular insights—to the ongoing conversations around ecology and cosmology. It will become clear that liturgy has always been about more than human beings at worship: specific understandings of creation and the cosmos are in fact at the heart of all Christian worship.

Some of the sessions included:

- The Crux of the Cosmos in the Art of Fifth Century Rome
- Baptism and Ecology: The Search for a Rite that Connects the Dots
- The Cosmos and the Liturgy in Hildegard's Scivias
- The World as Christ's Body: Problems and Possibilities

These are just a handful of the lectures and sessions; on average we had 5 hour and a half sessions each day.

Aside from these sessions I had the opportunity to make many friends including one who became my dinner partner each evening. His name was Daniel Kruger, a young Episcopalian priest originally from South Africa, who is now living in New Jersey.

As you would expect, there was much deep conversation during lunch, coffee, and dinner as these deep subject matters simmered in the brain, but there was also laughter and all that you would expect from people living in close quarters. I think living in community as such greatly speeds up the process of friendship.

Of course, everyone was wondering about when Rowan Williams would arrive, and much to our surprise he appeared day one, with a student's knapsack over one shoulder. It is hard not to be in awe of a man who has the mental capacity and eloquence of Rev. Williams, but what really moved me was his extreme humility. He listened more than he spoke; he was attentive and quietly went to all the lectures as if he were a student. Finally on

Wednesday night, he delivered his keynote lecture at Trinity on the Green Church, and what he said in that hour or so was so profound that one could ponder it for a long while and still glean new facets to polish.

I will leave you with a few of the notes and reflections I jotted down during that night and through the week.

- When we gather at Christ's table we are not just reenacting the Seder meal.
- Christ did not replace the meaning of the Passover meal, but he deepened and transformed it.
- This meal reminds us that like the Hebrew children we have been held captive, not to Pharaoh, but to our very nature and the nature of the society we have created and nurtured.
- In this meal of wine and bread we ask God to transform our nature into that of Christ. We are inviting Christ to work in us in though the Holy Spirit.
- In the moment we commune, the table becomes a place full of the presence of God.
- When we gather, we do so as Christ's Church for the sacred purpose of living out the physical presence of Christ in the World
- We submit ourselves to this mystery in the presence of Holy Communion as a thin space.
- We are also reminded that in the times of Rome, bread was given out by the state as an act of charity; the early Christians adopted the same policy in the act of communion. The bread and wine they received was the equivalent to a meal ration for those who gathered.
- When we feed the hungry, the communion meal is just as present as when we gather in our worship space; in this way, we commune as the gathered and scattered church.
- Perhaps one of the most powerful symbols of communion is that of Christ gathering us together, knowing that at times we will betray him, but always bringing us back to the table when we have wandered off in our denial and confusion.
- In Exodus, God declares to Moses his name to be "I will be what I will be" but then through baptism Jesus gives us freedom to name God Abba, Father. God is now to us what he is to Jesus.

J. Kevin Gray

Youth News from Lee

Upcoming Youth Events

August 11-14 – Middle School Local Mission Trip - Schedule was sent out Wednesday, July 10. Adults are reminded to reply to that email to sign up for projects.

August 19 – Pride Parade after worship at 1:00 pm

August 31 – September 2 – High School Fall Retreat to Savannah, GA – New Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon, GA (outside Savannah). Mark your calendars.

June 15-22, 2019 – High School Mission Trip to

Puerto Rico – If you have made a commitment to go, please mail your \$100 deposit check (payable to "St. John's" with "Puerto Rico Mission Trip" in the memo line).



St. John's will host the Pride Interfaith Service on Sunday, August 12, at 4 pm. This service will contain music, prayers, and proclamations of many of the world's religions. The service will also include a community-based music component.

Kevin is looking for 9 volunteers to be greeters and to direct guests in the building for this service. To volunteer, contact him at kgray@sjcharlotte.org or 803-524-0287.

St. John's will be participating in Charlotte Pride again this year! The festival is August 18-19, and the parade is on Sunday, August 19. We are currently looking for Festival Volunteers. St. John's will sponsor a booth at the festival. We need volunteers to setup, man and take down the booth on Saturday, August 18. Please e-mail Todd at stillerman@gmail.com or text Mattie at 704-362-6743 if you can help!

As a special enticement, if you help with tie-dye or volunteer to work at least 2 hours in the booth, your t-shirt is FREE! Otherwise, you'll have to pay \$10 for your awesome tie-dye, and supplies will be limited.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2018, 4PM

FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION CATERED BY PACO'S TACOS

Welcoming all the Children of God for the annual Interfaith Service kicking off this year's Charlotte Pride Festival & Parade

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
300 HAWTHORNE LANE
CHARLOTTE, NC 28204

WITH OPENING REMARKS FROM:

THE HONORABLE
ALMA ADAMS
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

THE HONORABLE
JEFF JACKSON
NORTH CAROLINA SENATE

INCLUDING INSPIRING, INTERFAITH MUSICAL PERFORMANCES
FEATURING THE ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST LETOURNEAU PIPE ORGAN

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CHARLOTTEPRIDE.ORG/INTERFAITH



University 2018



School Uniform Drive: The first of August marks the beginning of our uniform donation drive for Highland Renaissance School (under our Children & Families Team). Needs include:

- Girls' khaki or navy pants: Sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18
- Boys' khaki or navy pants: Sizes 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20
- Short-sleeved polo shirts: ALL Sizes - White and navy
- Long-sleeved polo shirts: ALL Sizes - White and navy

GREATEST NEED IS FOR SMALLER SIZES.

St. John's Baptist Church
300 Hawthorne Lane - Charlotte NC 28204
704.333.5428-www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org
Family News - a publication of St. John's Baptist Church

Ministers

Every participant in God's Servant Church

Equipping Ministers

Minister for Children & Their Families Allison Benfield
 ext. 18 - abenfield@sjcharlotte.org
Minister for Worship and Music.....Kevin Gray
 ext. 14 - kgray@sjcharlotte.org
Minister for Youth & Young AdultsLee Gray
 ext. 15 - lgray@sjcharlotte.org
Senior Minister..... Dennis Foust
 ext. 12 - dfoust@sjcharlotte.org

Church Staff

Church Administrator Jacquelyn McAbee
 ext. 20 - jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org
Custodians Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon
Graded Choirs Director..... Anna Ball
Organist..... Noel Lance
 nlance@sjcharlotte.org
Weekday School DirectorLydia Olmsted
 ext. 39 - weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org

Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Fri.: 8:30 am-12:00 noon



⇒ "Women of the Church" was organized ten years ago. Martha Brown and Jeck Warren were instrumental in shaping its structure and in advancing the vision for a viable and dynamic organization.

Sunday, September 9th
10th Annual Women of the Church Luncheon

We are excited to announce that our very own Julie Scoggins will be the guest speaker. This is one luncheon you don't want to miss!



One-day Retreat
Saturday, November 3
9 am - 4 pm at the Bragg Farm

Women of the Church need your donated Birthday Cards for men! Cards can be given to Patricia McCaskill or left in the church office for use in the Women of the Church birthday card ministry. Thank you!

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Joe Ehrenberger - Asbury; Martha Brown, Nancy Burgess, Carol Drye, Dennis Foust, Genice Harper, Johnnie Morcock, Casey Perkins, Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson & Dee Turner - home

Sunday, August 5

Deacons: Cindy McIntyre, Mark McNeill, Tricia Miller, Melissa Millette, Jane & Morgan Newman, Russell Norris, Kim & Robby Ray, Shannon Rodden

Tellers: James Laney, Susan King

Greeters: Main-Tom & Carol Injaychock; 5th St.-Al & Treva Bridges; Broach Hall-Jimmy Carpenter; Elevator- Marvin Carter

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of July 23-29: \$14,907
 Income through July 29: \$503,249
 2018 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,135,000

Ministers on Call:

July 30 - August 5: Kevin Gray 803-524-0287
 August 6 - 12: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412



Save the Date!
Open Table:
Intergenerational
Evenings with
Purposeful Play
Wednesday, August 22
5:45 - 7:00 pm

Upcoming Games:

Makeup rainout games are being played this week. St. John's is not in any of those games. With no more missed games, the playoffs will start next week.



Calendar: August 5 - 11

Sunday, August 5
 9:15..... Summer Sunday School (Lasater Hall/Classrooms)
 10:30..... Worship (Sanctuary)
 1:00..... South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
Monday, August 6
 8:00..... AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, August 7
 7:00..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
 10:00..... Staff meeting (Conference Room)
 5:15..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
 6:00..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
Wednesday, August 8
 6:30..... Benton Basketball (Gym)
 6:00..... Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)
 7:00..... AA (Lasater Hall)
 7:15..... Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Friday, August 10
 8:00..... AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, August 11
 7:00..... Benton Basketball (Gym)

Complete calendar online:
www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org